AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fuel cell system comprising at least one of flow passages ~~and/~~or flow chambers which conduct moist gases to or from a fuel cell in operation, said at least one of said flow passages or flow chambers having an inner side confronting said gases ~~and wherein~~ which at least ~~a~~in part ~~of the flow passages and/or flow chambers are~~ is provided with a coating which, at low temperatures, takes up water in distributed form from said flow passages or flow chambers and releases the water, at least in part, ~~again~~ back to said flow passages or flow chambers at higher temperatures.

2. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating is a silicate with the general formula:

$X_{12}[(Al\,O_2)_{12}(Si\,O_2)_{12}] \cdot xH_2O$

or $X_{12}(Al_{12}Si_{12}O_{24}) \cdot xH_2O$

or $X_{43}(Al_{43}Si_{83}O_{24}) \cdot xH_2O$

or $X_{28}(Al_{28}Si_{68}O_{96}) \cdot xH_2O$

where X = Li, Na, K, Rb, or Cs and x is an integer and the water is ~~taken up~~ absorbed in the pores of the coating ~~which have sizes in the nanometer range~~.

3. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating is a silicate with the general formula:

$Y_6[(Al\,O_2)_{12}(Si\,O_2)_{12}] \cdot xH_2O$,

where Y = Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, or Ba, and x is an integer and the water is ~~taken up~~ absorbed in the pores of the coating ~~which have sizes in the nanometer range~~.

4. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of alkaline and alkaline earth aluminum silicates~~, i.e. so-called zeolites~~.

5. (original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating comprises polysiloxane.

6. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a polymer ~~which is provided with~~ having acid radicals or alkaline radicals which have a chemical affinity for water.

7. (original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the polymer is a modified polyethylene glycol.

8. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1 ~~having a hydrogen circuit,~~ wherein the coating is on said inner side of said flow passages or flow chambers that define an ~~present at the inner side of the tubes and the passages which are present at the~~ anode side of ~~the~~ said fuel cells.

9. (currently amended) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1 ~~having a hydrogen circuit,~~ wherein the coating is on said inner side of said flow passages or flow chambers that define a ~~located at the inner side of the tubes and the passages which are present at the~~ cathode side of ~~the~~said fuel cells.

10 – 12 (withdrawn)